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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Syed K. Quraishi

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EXAMINER

HARBECK, TIMOTHY M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3628

DATE MAILED: 08/22/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 09/827,333	<b>Applicant(s)</b> QURAISHI ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Timothy M. Harbeck	<b>Art Unit</b> 3628	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 June 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13, 16, 17, 19-22 and 24-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13, 16-17, 19-22 and 24-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                        | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)    | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

DETAILED ACTION

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 4-8, 19 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by DeTore et al (US Pat No 5,732,397).

**Re Claim 1:** DeTore discloses an automated decision making arrangement comprising

- An input circuit for receiving at least one transaction (Fig 1, Ref 16 and Fig 3 Ref 50)
- A storage medium storing rules and a plurality of preset outcomes(see Ref 24 and Column 3 lines 26-35), at least one rule having the plurality of preset outcomes appropriate to a transaction capable (Column 2, lines 30-43) wherein
- The at least one rule has an assigned outcome selected from the plurality of preset outcomes (Column 2 line 30-34) and;
- A user is allowed to change the assigned outcome selected from a first one of the present outcomes to a second one of the present outcomes (Column 3, lines 26-36)

**Re Claim 4:** DeTore further discloses the step in which one of said plurality of preset outcomes includes forwarding the at least one transaction to a user for approval (Column 8, lines 9-21). In the DeTore disclosure, all relevant information and automated recommendations are forwarded to a user who can then either approve or overrule the system.

**Re Claim 5:** DeTore further disclose the step in which one of said plurality of preset outcomes includes automatic approval of an order submitted with said transaction (Column 5, line 59- Column 6 line 9).

**Re Claim 6:** DeTore discloses an automated decision making arrangement comprising

- An input circuit for receiving at least one transaction (Fig 1, Ref 16 and Fig 3 Ref 50)
- A storage medium having rules and a plurality of preset scope stored thereon (see Ref 24 and Column 3 lines 26-35), at least one rule having an assigned scope of application selected from the plurality of preset scope (Column 2, lines 36-42; initial comparison; subsequent comparison based on additional data)
- Wherein a user is allowed to change the assigned scope from a first one of the plurality of preset scope to a second one of the plurality of preset scope (Column 7, lines 66-Column 8 line. 27)

**Re Claim 7:** DeTore discloses the claimed method supra and further discloses the step in which the assigned scope of the application is set to the account level (Column 3, lines 26-29)

**Re Claim 8:** DeTore discloses the claimed method supra and further discloses the step in which the assigned scope of the application is set to the registered representative level (Column 5, lines 13-27). The DeTore disclosure references a “decision manager” which serves the same capacity as the registered representative in applicants disclosure.

**Re Claim 19:** DeTore discloses an automated decision making arrangement comprising:

- A client process for generating and sending a transaction containing an order for execution (Column 1, lines 52-66 ‘input means’; Figure 3, Ref 50)
- A rules engine for receiving said transaction from said client process and applying at least one user configurable rules to said transaction (See Figure 3, Refs 52, 54; Column 3, lines 26-35)
- At least one execution process for receiving said order from said rules engine and for executing the order, when the application of rules by said rules engine results in an approved outcome (Column 5, lines 62-Column 6, lines 9; Figure 3 Refs 54 and 56)

- Wherein at least one user configurable rule comprises at least one having an assigned outcome selected from a plurality of preset outcomes (Column 2, lines 30-36) and;
- A user is allowed to change the assigned outcome selected from a first one of the present outcomes to a second one of the present outcomes (Column 3, lines 26-36)

**Re Claim 22:** DeTore discloses an automated decision making arrangement comprising:

- A client process for generating and sending a transaction containing an order for execution (Column 1, lines 52-66 'input means'; Figure 3, Ref 50)
- A rules engine for receiving said transaction from said client process and applying at least one user configurable rules to said transaction (See Figure 3, Refs 52, 54; Column 3, lines 26-35)
- At least one execution process for receiving said order from said rules engine and for executing the order, when the application of rules by said rules engine results in an approved outcome (Column 5, lines 62-Column 6, lines 9; Figure 3 Refs 54 and 56)
- Wherein at least one user configurable rule comprises at least one rule having an assigned scope of application selected from a plurality of preset scope, and (Column 2, lines 36-42; initial comparison; subsequent comparison based on additional data).

- A user is allowed to change the assigned scope of application from a first one of the plurality of preset scope to a second one of the plurality of preset scope (Column 7, lines 66-Column 8 line 27).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2, 12, 13, 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DeTore in view of Toy (US Pat No 4,554,418).

**Re Claim 2:** DeTore discloses the claimed method 1 as previously stated, however DeTore does not explicitly disclose the step in which o one of said plurality of preset outcomes includes providing warning information to a user. Toy discloses an information monitoring and notification method and apparatus wherein "it becomes an object of the present invention to provide an economical system for monitoring financial market data and for informing investors upon occurrence of particular events or trends of interest (Column 2, lines 35-52)." In this manner, a user of the Toy system could receive a warning notice if, for example, the market value of a stock owned by the user drops below a pre determined threshold. It would have been obvious to someone skilled in the ordinary art at the time of invention to include the teachings of Toy to the decision-making arrangement of DeTore so that a user of the system could receive a

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warning notice if, for example, the market value of a stock owned by the user drops below a pre determined threshold. This would be valuable to the user because they could then take appropriate action, whether it be to sell the stock or reevaluate his position.

**Re Claim 12:** DeTore discloses the claimed method 6 as previously stated, but does not explicitly disclose the step wherein a rule is accompanied by a message to be sent when a rule is violated. Toy discloses an information monitoring and notification method and apparatus wherein "it becomes an object of the present invention to provide an economical system for monitoring financial market data and for informing investors upon occurrence of particular events or trends of interest (Column 2, lines 35-52)." Toy continues, "Upon occurrence of any of these specified conditions, the method and apparatus of the present invention automatically initiates a contact sequence for notifying the user of such occurrence (Column 5, lines 18-21)." In this case, the "specified conditions," would be the violation of a pre-determined rule. It would have been obvious to someone skilled in the ordinary art at the time of invention to include the teachings of Toy to the method of DeTore so that a user of the system could be informed when a rule is violated and take appropriate action as soon as possible.

**Re Claim 13:** DeTore in view of Toy discloses the claimed method supra and Toy further discloses the step in which the text of said message can be changed by a user for a selected level (Column 7, lines 22-28).

**Re Claim 20:** DeTore discloses the claimed method supra and further discloses the step in which the assigned outcome is selected from a group comprising:



- Forwarding the order to a process for execution (Fig 3, Ref 50,52,54)
- Forwarding the order to a user for approval (Fig 3, Ref 64, Column 5 lines 13-18)
- Rejecting the order (Column 6, lines 41-44)

DeTore does not explicitly disclose the step of providing a warning to a user about the order, however Toy discloses such a step (Column 2, lines 35-52). It would have been obvious to someone skilled in the ordinary art at the time of invention to include the teachings of Toy to the decision-making arrangement of DeTore so that a user of the system could, for example, receive a warning that an order they have placed does not meet the pre defined criteria that the user has established as necessary for the transaction. If this step were not in place a user could inadvertently enter into a transaction to which they would normally object.

**Re Claim 21:** DeTore in view of Toy discloses the claimed method supra and DeTore further discloses the step in which forwarding the order to a process for execution includes forwarding the order to a selectable of a process for executing a stock or option trades, a process for executing mutual fund trades, and a process for executing trades in fixed income instruments (Column 3, lines 48-50).

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DeTore in view of Kalmus et al (hereinafter Kalmus US Pat No. 4,674,044).

**Re Claim 3:** DeTore discloses the claimed method supra except for the explicit disclosure wherein one of said plurality of preset outcomes includes prohibiting

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execution of an order by said transaction. Kalmus discloses an automated securities trading system wherein "the processor first determines whether or not each received transaction can be executed, i.e., qualifies the order. There are various reasons why an order will not be executed by the market maker (Column 5, lines 6-21)." It would have been obvious to someone skilled in the ordinary art at the time of invention to include the teachings of Kalmus to the invention of DeTore so that certain orders that do not meet the pre determined rules are not executed. If the orders were be allowed to be placed, in violation of the rules it would render the decision making tool useless.

Claims 9-11 and 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DeTore.

**Re Claims 9-11:** DeTore discloses the claimed method 6 as stated previously. While DeTore does not explicitly disclose wherein the assigned scope of application level is set to the office, firma and global levels, DeTore has shown that the scope of the application is capable of being set to different levels in a hierarchal system (individual account Column 3 lines 26-29 and registered representative Column 5 lines 13-27). It follows then that if the scope of the application is capable of being set to the account level and the registered representative level, it would be capable of being set to the office, firm or global level. Official Notice is taken that it is old and well known in the art for a decision making process in an entity to flow through a hierarchal order. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to

include this step to the disclosure of DeTore so that the appropriate personnel are either consulted or involved in an important decision or review process.

**Re Claim 16:** DeTore discloses a method for processing a transaction the step of checking transaction by first applying rules at the account level, then rules at the registered representative level (See Discussion Re Claims 7-8 and Fig 3). The reference does not explicitly disclose then applying the rules at the office level, then rules at the firm level and then rules at the global level, however as discussed previously with regards to Claims 9-11, in the DeTore embodiment the scope of application of said rules is capable of being set to different levels in a hierarchal system. Official Notice is taken that it is old and well known in the art for a decision making process in an entity to flow through a hierarchal order. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to include this step to the disclosure of DeTore so that the appropriate personnel are either consulted or involved in an important decision or review process. DeTore shows in Figure 3 that the rules can be applied in order of increasing scope and therefore it follows that the rules, after the registered representative level, be applied at the office level, then rules at the firm level and then rules at the global level, and then rules at any other potential higher level deemed appropriate in a hierarchal order.

**Re Claim 17:** DeTore discloses the claimed method supra however the reference does not explicitly disclose the step in which the rules include compliance rules. However, Official Notice is taken that it was well known in the art at the time of invention that any company that does not adhere to compliance rules associated with

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the Securities and Exchange Commission and exchange regulations could be subject to disciplinary action such as being barred from trading. It would have been obvious to someone skilled in the ordinary art at the time of invention to include compliance rules in the rules engine to ensure that the system can legally operate in an organized stock exchange.

Claims 24-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DeTore in view of Fernholz (US Pat No 5,819,238).

**Re Claim 24:** DeTore discloses an apparatus comprising:

- A client for generating and sending a transaction containing a request (Figure 3, Ref 50, 52)
- A rules engine for receiving said transaction from said client process and applying at least one user configurable rule to said transaction (Figure 3, Ref 52, 54; Column 3 lines 26-35) wherein the at least one user configurable rule includes at least one rule with user configurable scope of application, or at least one rule with a user configurable outcome (Column 3, lines 26-35; the database contains rules that are installation specific to a user, a rule is an if-then statement, and by controlling the "then" portion of this statement, the outcome is user configurable).

- Wherein at least one user configurable rule comprises at least one rule having an assigned scope of application selected from a plurality of preset scope, and (Column 2, lines 36-42; initial comparison; subsequent comparison based on additional data).
- A user is allowed to change the assigned scope of application from a first one of the plurality of preset scope to a second one of the plurality of preset scope (Column 7, lines 66-Column 8 line 27)
- The at least one rule has an assigned outcome selected from the plurality of preset outcomes (Column 2 line 30-34) and;
- A user is allowed to change the assigned outcome selected from a first one of the present outcomes to a second one of the present outcomes (Column 3, lines 26-36)

DeTore does not explicitly disclose the steps wherein the sending of a transaction contains a request to transfer assets between accounts or at least one execution process for receiving said request from said rules engine and for transferring assets as requested, when application of rules by said rules engine results in an approved outcome. Fernholz discloses an apparatus for automatically modifying a financial portfolio through dynamic re-weighting based on a non-constant function of current capitalization weights that contain these steps. Fernholz discloses a “computer then issues digital trading instructions, each of which represents a trade of a corresponding security to e.g., an electronic trading network such that current assets held in the portfolio are to be distributed, upon execution of the instructions” (Column 4,

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line 67- Column 5 line 4). Essentially an input request is made concerning the balance of assets among a portfolio and in response to these requests; assets are transferred amongst various accounts to meet certain distribution requirements. It would have been obvious to someone skilled in the ordinary art at the time of invention to include the request and execution for transferring of assets as disclosed by Fernholz to the decision making tool of DeTore so that a user can not only have a decision made regarding their financial requests, but also have the decision executed. IF someone were to use a decision making tool, it is probable that they would use the recommendations of the system. It would thus streamline the process if the same system could upon approval execute the actions as well.

**Re Claim 25:** DeTore in view of Fernholz discloses the claimed method supra and DeTore further discloses the step wherein at least one user configurable rule comprises at least one rule with user configurable scope of application (Column 2, lines 36-42; initial comparison; subsequent comparison based on additional data)

**Re Claim 26:** DeTore in view of Fernholz discloses the claimed method supra and DeTore further discloses the step wherein at least one user configurable rule comprises at least one rule with user configurable parameters (Column 3, lines 26-35).

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed 06/07/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant claims that the DeTore reference does not anticipate the present invention because the initial outcomes or scope of DeTore is arbitrarily determined by a software designer at the initial development stage and that DeTore does not specifically describe that a user of the system is allowed to change the assigned outcome or scope from a plurality of preset outcomes (Remarks page 9). The examiner disagrees. DeTore specifically notes that information contained within the database of the system including rules, guidelines and procedures are "specific to a particular user," (Column 3, lines 26-28) and furthermore "information in the database may be modified from time to time to reflect changing investment strategies and preferences or general economic conditions (Column 3, lines 34-36)." So not only is the initial programming not arbitrary or dependent on the programmer's preference it is also subject to modification subject to the user's requests. DeTore lists a number of variables such as required rates of return and risk tolerance that can be set according to the users preference and then changed at a later time depending on economic conditions or individual investment strategies. It is the examiners opinion then that DeTore still anticipates claim 1, contrary to the applicant's remarks.

As per claim 8, the examiner maintains that the decision manager as defined by DeTore serves the same capacity as the registered representative of the present invention. Furthermore throughout the disclosure there are varying levels of scope applied to each rule depending upon a level of correspondence with the stored information (Column 4, lines 19-32; "expert modules which isolate specific structural

elements." Also see Column 4 lines 33-Column 5 line 27). The decisions rendered can also be referred, by rule, to a human decision maker (Ref 64).

As per claims 9-11 the applicant has changed the scope of the claims and therefore a new ground of rejection has been issued. The original claims used the phrase "is capable of being set," which the examiner felt the DeTore reference anticipated. The new language calls for a new set of rejections as laid out above.

As per claim 16 the applicant has changed the scope of the claims and therefore a new ground of rejection has been issued. In response to applicant's argument that the examiner's conclusion of obviousness is based upon improper hindsight reasoning, it must be recognized that any judgment on obviousness is in a sense necessarily a reconstruction based upon hindsight reasoning. But so long as it takes into account only knowledge which was within the level of ordinary skill at the time the claimed invention was made, and does not include knowledge gleaned only from the applicant's disclosure, such a reconstruction is proper. See *In re McLaughlin*, 443 F.2d 1392, 170 USPQ 209 (CCPA 1971). The examiner has taken the position that it is old and well known in the art for a decision making process in an entity to flow through a hierarchal order.

The remaining arguments for the dependent claims utilize the same argument presented above. Namely, that the DeTore reference does not anticipate the present invention because the initial outcomes or scope of DeTore is arbitrarily determined by a software designer at the initial development stage and that DeTore does not specifically describe that a user of the system is allowed to change the assigned outcome or scope



from a plurality of preset outcomes (Remarks page 9). For the same reasons listed above, the examiner believes that DeTore does anticipate these claims and therefore the examiner maintains his rejections of the dependent claims as well.

### ***Conclusion***

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

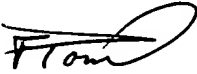
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Timothy M. Harbeck whose telephone number is 571-272-8123. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hyung S. Souh can be reached on 571-272-6799. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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